

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
SSM-03 IO-13 HA-05 /086 W
-----101240 191451Z /43

R 191325Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 264
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD POUCH
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 1025

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PORG, LE
SUBJECT: THE MARCH 27 ARAB LEAGUE MEETING AND THE ADF:
KUWAITI VIEWS

REF: (A) CAIRO 4780, (B) KUWAIT 0879 (NOTAL).

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IN CALL ON MFA ARAB AFFAIRS OFFICER FEB. 19, IBRAHIM AL-MOOSA,
POL OFF ASKED FOR CURRENT KUWAITI VIEW WHETHER THE SCHEDULED
MARCH 27 ARAB LEAGUE FON MIN'S CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AND,
IF SO, WHETHER IT WOULD DEAL WITH THE QUESTION OF EXTENDING
THE PRESENCE IN LEBANON OF THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCE (ADF).
AL-MOOSA SAID THAT, WHILE THE GOK WAS STILL UNCERTAIN
WHETHER THERE WOULD BE A MEETING, IT WAS PREPARING TO

PARTICIPATE. THE KUWAITIS HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE MEETING, IF HELD, WILL BE AT LESS-THAN-MINISTERIAL LEVEL, GIVEN THE CERTAIN NON-ATTENDANCE OF SYRIA AND THE REST OF THE "STEADFASTNESS FRONT" AND THE CONTROVERSIALITY OF CAIRO AS THE MEETING SITE. THIS BEING THE CASE, IT WOULD BE FRUITLESS TO TAKE UP THE QUESTION OF ADF EXTENSION (BEYOND THE APRIL TERMINATION OF THE CURRENT SIX MONTH PERIOD), SINCE THE EXTENSION WOULD REQUIRE A HIGHER LEVEL MEETING, CERTAINLY INCLUDING SYRIA, AND PERHAPS ONLY OF THE STATES INVOLVED IN FUNDING AND MANNING THE ADF. IN RESPONSE TO POL OFF'S QUERY, AL-MOOSA SAID THAT KUWAIT CANNOT BUT APPROVE OF THE ADF IN PRINCIPLE, BUT THAT THE GOK IS EXTREMELY UNCOMFORTABLE OVER THE PROSPECTIVE LONG CONTINUATION OF THE ADF ROLE AND THE EFFECT OF RECENT LEBANESE-SYRIAN CLASHES ON FURTHER EXTENDING THE DURATION AND COST OF THE ADF PRESENCE. POL OFF NOTED THAT THE USG SEES A DEFINITE NEED FOR CONTINUED ADF PRESENCE, UNTIL LEBANESE FORCES CAN ASSUME THEIR RIGHTFUL INTERNAL SECURITY ROLE, AND THAT THE US IS HELPING THE LEBANESE ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE. AL-MOOSA SAID THAT IT WAS HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT THE ADF MUST REMAIN AND MUST CONTINUE TO BE FINANCED BY OTHERS, INCLUDING KUWAIT, BECAUSE THERE IS NO FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVE. HE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT THE OFFICIAL KUWAITI VIEW IS THAT THESE QUESTIONS HAVE TO BE DECIDED IN CONSULTATION WITH INTERESTED ARAB GOVERNMENTS.

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